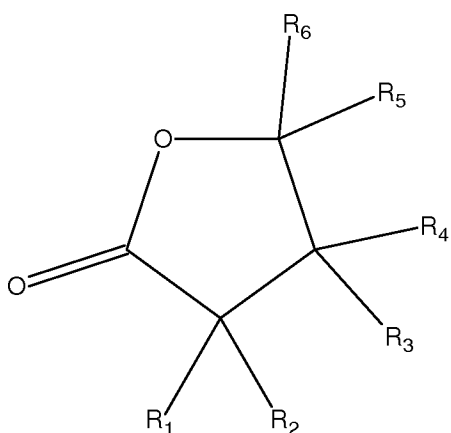


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A process for the liquefaction of lignocellulosic or cellulosic material, wherein solid lignocellulosic or cellulosic material is heated at a temperature in the range of from 100 to 300 °C in the presence of an acid catalyst and a solvent, wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is at most 50, the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 50% by weight of acid based on the weight of solvent and acid, and the solvent comprises a compound having a gamma lactone group of the general molecular formula

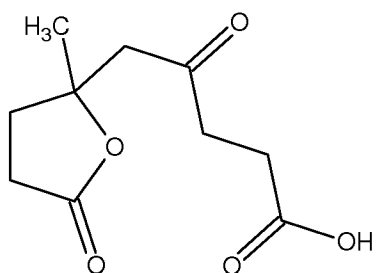


(1)

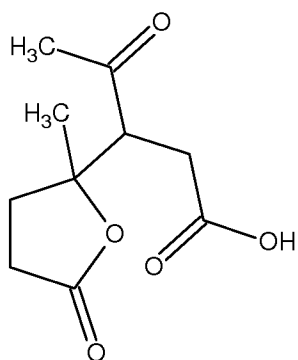
wherein R₁ to R₆ each represent, independently, a hydrogen atom or an organic group connected with a carbon atom to the lactone group.

2. (original) A process according to claim 1, wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ each are a hydrogen atom.

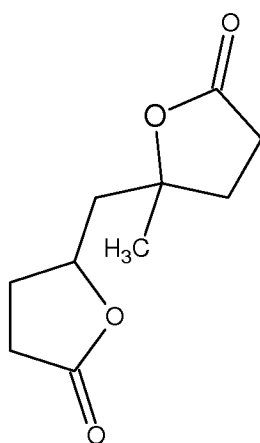
3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein R₅ is a methyl group, the compound having a gamma lactone group is gamma valerolactone (R₆ is a hydrogen atom), 2-methyl-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylic acid (R₆ is a carboxyl group), a compound having a molecular structure according to any one of molecular formulas (2) to (5):



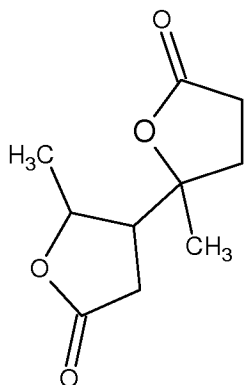
(2)



(3)



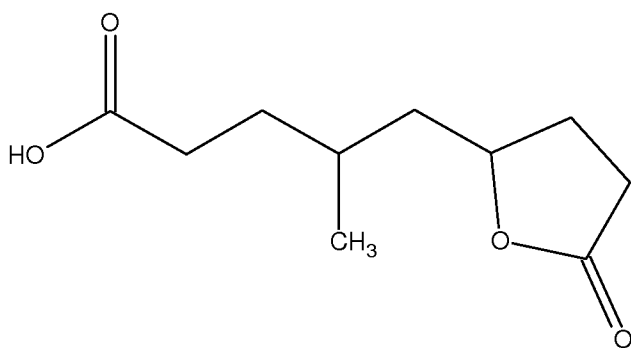
(4)



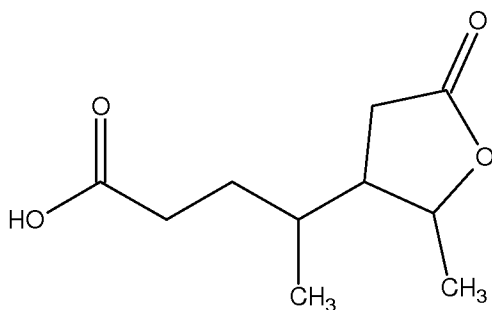
(5)

or an ester of a compound having a molecular structure according to molecular formula (2) or (3).

4. (original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the compound having a gamma lactone group has a molecular structure according to molecular formula (6) or (7):



(6)



(7)

or is an ester of a compound having a molecular structure according to molecular formula (6) or (7).

5. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the compound having a gamma lactone group is obtainable from levulinic acid by hydrogenation, dehydration, aldolcondensation, dimerisation or oligomerisation, esterification with an alcohol, or a combination of two or more of these reactions.
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent consists essentially of one or more of the solvent compounds defined in claim 1.
11. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is a strong mineral or organic acid having a pKa below 4.7.
12. (previously presented) A process according to claim 11, wherein the acid is phosphoric acid or sulphuric acid.
13. (original) A process according to claim 11, wherein the acid is oxalic acid, 2-oxopropanoic acid, maleic acid, (1*E*)-prop-1-ene-1,2,3-tricarboxylic acid, 2,3-dihydroxysuccinic acid, furan-2,5-dicarboxylic acid, or a combination of two or more thereof.
14. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 20% by weight.
15. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is in the range of from 3 to 20.

16. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the temperature is in the range of from 120 to 250 °C.

17. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the pressure is in the range of from 0.1 to 15 bar (absolute).

18. (previously presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein the compound having a gamma lactone group is obtainable from levulinic acid by hydrogenation, dehydration, aldolcondensation, dimerisation or oligomerisation, esterification with an alcohol, or a combination of two or more of these reactions.

19. (previously presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the compound having a gamma lactone group is obtainable from levulinic acid by hydrogenation, dehydration, aldolcondensation, dimerisation or oligomerisation, esterification with an alcohol, or a combination of two or more of these reactions.

20. (previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the compound having a gamma lactone group is obtainable from levulinic acid by hydrogenation, dehydration, aldolcondensation, dimerisation or oligomerisation, esterification with an alcohol, or a combination of two or more of these reactions.